

What is claimed is:

1. A content manufacturing and distribution system for manufacturing, distributing and caching content over wireless or wired Internet to portable devices, said system comprising:

at least one portable device, the portable device capable of presenting users with portable device applications and content that are based on at least one of the user's community and personal preferences, the portable device including a cache for caching content packages on the portable device;

a content manufacturing system that processes information, data, and application objects from general external sources and community sources, and creates structured, searchable content packages relevant to at least one of a community, geography, and type of portable device; and

at least one internet server that distributes the content packages over the wireless or wired Internet to portable devices based on at least one of community and user preferences,

wherein in response to a user submitting a request to the portable device application, the portable device cache is searched and used to fulfill the user request when relevant content packages are available in the portable device cache for fulfilling the request, and

wherein user requests that require content not available in the portable device cache are routed to the at least one wired or wireless Internet server and content packages fulfilling the request are streamed down to the portable device, fulfilling the

user request and updating the portable device cache so that subsequent user requests have access to the updated cache.

2. A content manufacturing and distributing system as recited in claim 1, wherein additional content that is anticipated to be required by the user of the portable device, determined by at least one of location, past behavior of the user, user preferences and community preferences, is streamed to the portable device concurrent with subsequent user requests.

3. A content manufacturing and distributing system as recited in claim 1, wherein content packages are streamed down to the portable device in background mode, permitting the portable device application to continue to serve content.

4. A content manufacturing and distributing system as recited in claim 1, wherein as the portable device cache is updated with additional content, it is made available to satisfy subsequent user requests, avoiding the need to route the request to the Internet servers.

5. A content manufacturing and distributing system as recited in claim 1, wherein based on at least one of location, user preferences, community preferences, past user behavior, and the storage characteristics of the portable device, content in the portable device cache is managed such that less frequently required content is deleted from the

cache to free storage for other content.

6. A content manufacturing and distributing system as recited in claim 1, wherein external suppliers and communities may create their own content packages using automated or semi-automated facilities of the content management system.

7. A content manufacturing and distributing system as recited in claim 1, wherein the user requests may include searches of content via name, address, category, geographic location, review criteria, schedules, directions, maps, bookings, reservations, and other criteria, in any combination.

8. A content manufacturing and distributing system as recited in claim 1, wherein if the user requests require content not available in the portable device cache or on the at least one Internet server, the at least one Internet server routes a request to the content manufacturing system to create relevant content packages.

9. A content manufacturing and distributing system as recited in claim 8, wherein in response to the request from the at least one Internet server, the content manufacturing system creates one or more relevant content packages and routes the relevant content packages via the Internet server, to the portable device for updating the portable device cache so that subsequent user requests have access to the updated cache.

10. A content manufacturing and distribution method for manufacturing, distributing and caching content over wireless or wired Internet to portable devices, said method comprising:

processing information, data, and application objects from general external sources and community sources, and creating structured, searchable content packages relevant to at least one of a community, geography, and type of portable device, wherein objects in a content package may be associated, using automated or semi-automated methods, with geographic location and content volatility; and

distributing the content packages over the wireless or wired Internet to portable devices based on at least one of community and user preferences, the portable device capable of presenting users with portable device applications and content that are based on at least one of the user's community and personal preferences, the portable device including a cache for caching the content packages on the portable device;

in response to a user submitting a request to the portable device application, searching the portable device cache to fulfill the user request when relevant content packages are available in the portable device cache for fulfilling the request;

when user requests that require content not available in the portable device cache, routing the request from the portable device to at least one wired or wireless Internet server;

in response to the user request from the portable device, streaming content packages fulfilling the request from the at least one wired or wireless Internet server down to the portable device fulfilling the user request; and

updating the portable device cache with the content packages streamed down from the at least one wired or wireless Internet server so that subsequent user requests have access to the updated cache.

11. A content manufacturing and distributing method as recited in claim 10, further comprising streaming to the portable device concurrent with subsequent user requests, additional content that is anticipated to be required by the user of the portable device, determined by at least one of location, past behavior of the user, user preferences and community preferences.

12. A content manufacturing and distributing method as recited in claim 10, further comprising streaming content packages down to the portable device in background mode, permitting the portable device application to continue to serve content.

13. A content manufacturing and distributing method as recited in claim 10, wherein as the portable device cache is updated with additional content, it is made available to satisfy subsequent user requests, avoiding the need to route the request to the Internet servers.

14. A content manufacturing and distributing method as recited in claim 10, further comprising managing content in the portable device cache such that less frequently required content is deleted from the cache to free storage for other content based on at

least one of location, user preferences, past user behavior, community preferences and storage characteristics of the portable device.

15. A content manufacturing and distributing method as recited in claim 10, wherein external suppliers and communities may create their own content packages using automated or semi-automated facilities.

16. A content manufacturing and distributing method as recited in claim 10, wherein the user requests may include searches of content via name, address, category, geographic location, review criteria, schedules, directions, maps, bookings, reservations, and other criteria, in any combination.

17. A content manufacturing and distributing method as recited in claim 10, further comprising routing a request from the at least one Internet server to the content manufacturing system to create relevant content packages if the user requests require content not available in the portable device cache or on the at least one Internet server.

18. A content manufacturing and distributing method as recited in claim 17, wherein in response to the request from the at least one Internet server, the content manufacturing system creates one or more relevant content packages and routes the relevant content packages via the Internet server, to the portable device for updating the portable device cache so that subsequent user requests have access to the

updated cache.

19. A portable internet device capable of presenting users with portable device applications and content that are based on at least one of the user's community and personal preferences, the portable device comprising:

a cache for caching content packages;

a user input for inputting commands and user requests for content to the portable internet device;

an output for providing at least one of an audio and visual output to the user of the portable internet device; and

a control section that searches the cache for relevant content packages in response to user requests, wherein if relevant content packages are not available in the cache, the control section forwards a request to a remote server and content packages fulfilling the request are streamed down to the portable device from the remote server fulfilling the user request and stored in the portable device cache so that subsequent user requests have access to the updated cache.

20. An internet server for distributing content over at least one of a wired and wireless connection to portable internet devices, said internet server comprising:

a cache for storing content packages received from a content manufacturing system;

a control section for receiving a request for content from the portable internet devices, the control section searching the cache for relevant content packages in response to the request from the portable internet device,

wherein if a relevant content package is available in the cache, the control section forwards the relevant content package to the portable internet device,

and wherein if relevant content packages are not available in the cache, the control section forwards a request to a content manufacturing system requesting that relevant content packages be manufactured and returned to the internet server.

21. A method for creating customized, portable web sites comprising:

generating content packages including customized computer applications and data that integrate third party community, external, and personal information, data, and application objects; and

delivering the generated content packages to the portable electronic devices used by at least one of members of the community and members of related communities in response to user requests,

wherein the content packages include at least one of community logo, menu choices, physical establishments, coupons, offers, advertisements, transactions, and other community-relevant content, name, address, category, geographic location, review criteria, schedules, directions, maps, bookings, reservations, transactions, and other content, in any combination.

22. A method for delivering and fulfilling offers provided to a portable device, said method comprising:

determining a location of a user of the portable device based on geo-specific information input by the user, the geo-specific information being location information supplied by the user or location information determined based on information included in the user's previous search requests;

generating and delivering to the portable device a content package including offer information including nature of offer, validity dates of offer and establishments participating in the offer, wherein the content packages are delivered to users based on prior behavior, community membership, a manual search, a profile, or automatically based on location or any combination thereof; and

fulfilling the offer by presenting the offer to a merchant via at least one of screen display, transmission to a server and other method of communicating the offer to the establishment accepting the offer,

wherein in the event of a one-time offer, the establishment may confirm receipt and mark the offer fulfilled using manual entry on the portable device and/or a transmission to the portable device via at least one of wireless, wired, Bluetooth, infrared, voice input and similar method.

23. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the offer presented to the merchant includes a bar code or code on a screen of the portable device which may be read or scanned by the merchant.

24. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the transmission to the server is via at least one of wireless, wired, Bluetooth, infrared and, barcode on a screen of the portable device.

25. A method for contacting a call center, said method comprising:
presenting a user of a portable device with a form or menu for entering a call center request, wherein said request may or may not be related to a special offer, advertisement, or coupon;

in response to the request, contacting the call center to request a specific transaction, reservation, or information request; and

providing a confirmation of the request to the user of the portable device.

26. A method for dynamically calculating and presenting directions on a portable electronic device, from a start point to at least one other point, using a single command, said method comprising:

determining at least one of a start point and the at least one other point based on actions of the user of the portable device, the actions of the user being for purposes other than for requesting directions;

determining a route based on the determined start point and the at least one other point in response to a single command input by the user of the portable device;
and

providing information concerning the route to the user of the portable device.

27. A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the information provided to the user of the device concerning the route includes at least one of a map and directions.

28. A method for gathering user comments on a portable device, said method comprising:

presenting the user of the portable device with at least one of a form and menu for entering comments;

receiving from a user of the portable device comments related to a result of a search performed on a portable device that resulted in a location, point of interest, or establishment;

integrating the comments into content to be distributed to users of the portable devices.